

Washington Aqueduct. This loan would have to be repaid by the Aqueduct's customers and, as such, the Congressional Budget Office scores it as no cost to the Federal government. The measure I introduce today is identical to Senator WARNER's legislation.

This bill will provide a financial mechanism for the repairs so that the hundreds of millions of dollars for the work do not result in exorbitant hikes in water rates. Under current rules, any needed capital improvements at the Aqueduct must be paid for in advance by District consumers and consumers in Arlington County and the city of Falls Church.

In response to more stringent water quality requirements being implemented nationally by the EPA, substantial costly improvements of \$200-\$500 million will be necessary at the Aqueduct over the next 10-15 years. Affordable water rates can be maintained only if payments are spread out over an extended period of time. This bill will ensure the long term future of the Aqueduct at reasonable consumer rates.

I urge my colleagues to support this important measure granting the Corps of Engineers the authority to provide vital improvements to the Aqueduct and ensuring safe drinking water for all of those served by this facility.

H.R. —

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### **SECTION 1. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE WASHINGTON AQUEDUCT.**

##### **(a) AUTHORIZATIONS.—**

(1) **AUTHORIZATION OF MODERNIZATION.**—Subject to approval in, and in such amounts as may be provided in appropriations Acts, the Chief of Engineers of the Army Corps of Engineers is authorized to modernize the Washington Aqueduct.

(2) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Army Corps of Engineers borrowing authority in amounts sufficient to cover the full costs of modernizing the Washington Aqueduct. The borrowing authority shall be provided by the Secretary of the Treasury, under such terms and conditions as are established by the Secretary of the Treasury, after a series of contracts with each public water supply customer has been entered into under subsection (b).

##### **(b) CONTRACTS WITH PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY CUSTOMERS.—**

(1) **CONTRACTS TO REPAY CORPS DEBT.**—To the extent provided in appropriations Acts, and in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3), the Chief of Engineers of the Army Corps of Engineers is authorized to enter into a series of contracts with each public water supply customer under which the customer commits to repay a pro-rata share of the principal and interest owed by the Army Corps of Engineers to the Secretary of the Treasury under subsection (a). Under each of the contracts, the customer that enters into the contract shall commit to pay any additional amount necessary to fully offset the risk of default on the contract.

(2) **OFFSETTING OF RISK OF DEFAULT.**—Each contract under paragraph (1) shall include such additional terms and conditions as the Secretary of the Treasury may require so that the value to the Government of the contracts is estimated to be equal to the obligational authority used by the Army Corps of Engineers for modernizing the Washington Aqueduct at the time that each series of contracts is entered into.

(3) **OTHER CONDITIONS.**—Each contract entered into under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) provide that the public water supply customer pledges future income from fees assessed to operate and maintain the Washington Aqueduct;

(B) provide the United States priority over all other creditors; and

(C) include other conditions that the Secretary of the Treasury determines to be appropriate.

(c) **BORROWING AUTHORITY.**—Subject to an appropriation under subsection (a)(2) and after entering into a series of contracts under subsection (b), the Secretary, acting through the Chief of Engineers of the Army Corps of Engineers, shall seek borrowing authority from the Secretary of the Treasury under subsection (a)(2).

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY CUSTOMER.**—The term "public water supply customer" means the District of Columbia, the county of Arlington, Virginia, and the city of Falls Church, Virginia.

(2) **VALUE TO THE GOVERNMENT.**—The term "value to the Government" means the net present value of a contract under subsection (b) calculated under the rules set forth in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a(5)), excluding section 502(5)(B)(i) of the Act, as though the contracts provided for the repayment of direct loans to the public water supply customers.

(3) **WASHINGTON AQUEDUCT.**—The term "Washington Aqueduct" means the water supply system of treatment plans, raw water intakes, conduits, reservoirs, transmission mains, and pumping stations owned by the Federal Government located in the metropolitan Washington, District of Columbia, area.

#### **TRIBUTE TO HELEN G. JACOB**

**HON. JACK QUINN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 1996*

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished community service of Helen G. Jacob, on the occasion of the opening of the Department of Veteran's Affairs Western New York Healthcare System Women's Wellness Center dedicated in her honor.

Ms. Jacob has served the State of New York as the chairperson of the Rehabilitation Committee for Women Veterans, a project which she initiated in 1984. She has also served as the vice president of the National Historians' Association, Area I, which encompasses 12 States and 3 separate countries.

In addition to these remarkable duties, Helen Jacob is also the women's coordinator for the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Buffalo, NY. In this capacity, she has selflessly dedicated countless hours on a volunteer basis to the personal needs of both inpatient and outpatient women in the medical center's care.

Helen also holds the prestigious honor of being the only woman elected as Commander of the American Legion of Erie County, a position responsible for approximately 14,000 members in over 50 posts.

Since its inception in 1992, Ms. Jacob has provided insight and expertise in veteran related issues on my 30th Congressional District Veterans Advisory Committee. Helen's insight and sage advice on matters concerning our Nation's veterans is truly appreciated, and I unreservedly offer her my enthusiastic con-

gratulations and commendations for this dedication.

The dedication of the Helen G. Jacob Women's Wellness Center is also testimony to the innovative spirit of the hospital itself, as it is the only one of its kind nationwide in a veterans hospital or medical center.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with the Jacob family, her colleagues, friends, all of those who served our Nation in the Armed Forces, and indeed, the entire western New York community to honor Ms. Helen G. Jacob for her dedication, hard work, and commitment to western New York and its veterans.

**AMERICORPS: INVESTMENTS  
WORTH MAKING IN OUR CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES**

**HON. BRUCE F. VENTO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 1996*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a valuable initiative that is an investment in both our Nation's communities and the citizens who live in them, the AmeriCorps Program. AmeriCorps participants earn money for their education by giving their time to efforts that improve communities and help people in need. The goal of the AmeriCorps Program is to support communities' efforts to provide for the human, educational, environmental, and public safety needs in their area. AmeriCorps initiatives serve to strengthen communities, increase civic responsibility, and expand opportunities for our Nation's citizens in need. These goals mean the AmeriCorps Program benefits our Nation on two fronts. It expands the knowledge and skill of our Nation's next generation of workers while simultaneously benefiting community organizations that are struggling to deliver essential assistance to our most vulnerable citizens, a struggle that will only increase in future years as budgets tighten and these organizations are asked to take a more prominent role in the delivery of such assistance.

When discussing AmeriCorps, some of my colleagues have referred to a General Accounting Office [GAO] study that shows higher costs per participant in the AmeriCorps Program than first calculated. The study states that the average cost per AmeriCorps member is \$26,654. The study, however, neglects to calculate the benefits, economic or social, that the program provides. In fact, the very objective of this GAO study was solely to calculate the per participant cost figure, not to determine whether the AmeriCorps Program provides higher benefits than those costs or whether the program has been effective in reaching its goals. The GAO analysis, therefore, is a one dimensional study because major value is added by AmeriCorps participants that is not considered.

The University of Minnesota recently completed a study of the benefits of the AmeriCorps Program in Minnesota and how those benefits compare with program costs. The study noted a number of economic and social benefits that the GAO study ignores, concluding that AmeriCorps initiatives benefit communities far more than they cost. One example is an AmeriCorps project in Minneapolis